



Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Meeting Minutes

Representative Town Meeting

Moderator Kevin Power, Representatives Jean-Claude Ambroise, Joe Baril, Nancy E. Barnhart, Alicia Bauer, Nancy E. Beckwith, Christopher J. Burns, Michael Collins, Nancy M. Congdon, Warren T. Cooper, Luanne E. DeMatto, Syma Ebbin, Peter Fairbank, Nancy E. Gilly, Patrice Granatosky, Dolores Harrell, Keith L. Hedrick, Damon Q. Helme, Lynn Crockett Hubbard, Michael Dean Johnson, Rosanne E. Kotowski, Elizabeth Luck, Jackie Massett, Carole McCarthy, Constance Miller, Karen F. Morton, Scott Newsome, Dana C. Parfitt, Richard J. Pasqualini, Jr., Tim Plungis, Kristen L. Powers, Don Pratt, Betty A. Prochaska, John F. Scott IV, Jack Sebastian, Dana S. Semeraro, Joan Steinfeld, Irma Streeter, Mark Svencer, Archie C. Swindell, and Robert A. Warn

Wednesday, February 9, 2011

7:30 PM

Groton Senior Center

Regular Meeting

A. ROLL CALL

Moderator Kevin Power called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

24 members were present, and a quorum was declared.

The Moderator reported that Reps. Ambroise, Ebbin, Fairbank, Gilly, Helme, McCarthy, Plungis, Scott, Sebastian, Semeraro and Svencer called to say they are unable to attend this meeting.

Members Present: Moderator Power, Rep. Baril, Rep. Barnhart, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Beckwith, Rep. Collins, Rep. Congdon, Rep. Cooper, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Hedrick, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Johnson, Rep. Kotowski, Rep. Massett, Rep. Miller, Rep. Morton, Rep. Parfitt, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Prochaska, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. Streeter and Rep. Warn

Members Absent: Rep. Ambroise, Rep. Burns, Rep. Ebbin, Rep. Fairbank, Rep. Gilly, Rep. Helme, Rep. Luck, Rep. McCarthy, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Plungis, Rep. Powers, Rep. Pratt, Rep. Scott, Rep. Semeraro, Rep. Sebastian, Rep. Svencer and Rep. Swindell

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, School Superintendent Paul Kadri, Ledge Light Health District Supervisor of Finance and Administration Jennifer Muggeo, Town Councilor Bill Johnson, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Assistant Town Clerk Sally Whitney.

B. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The members observed a moment of silence followed by the Salute to the Flag led by Rep. Baril.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 26, 2011 (adjourned to January 27, 2011)

A motion that the minutes be adopted was made by Rep. Beckwith, seconded by Rep. Hedrick and so voted unanimously.

D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

None.

E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

Moderator Power welcomed former RTM member George Swift.

2011-0028 Adoption of Thames Street Rehabilitation Program Ordinance

This matter was Referred to the RTM Public Works Committee, due back on March 9, 2011.

2011-0029 Adoption of Phase II School Facilities Program Ordinance

This matter was Referred to the RTM Education Committee, due back on March 9, 2011.

2011-0033 Supplemental Appropriation for May Referendum Costs

This matter was Referred to the RTM Finance Committee, due back on March 9, 2011.

F. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:**1. Financial report**

Mr. Oefinger reported that the Fund Balance as of January 31, 2011 is approximately \$8.7 million; the General Contingency balance is \$350,000 with no transfers made to date; the Capital Reserve balance is \$327,281. He noted that the increase is attributable to the receipt of recording fees and interest income.

2. Monthly briefing

The Town Manager highlighted various items from the Town Manager's News. He stated that the budget for snow removal is exhausted and that a request for a transfer of funds should be expected in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year if not sooner.

3. Ledge Light Health District

Moderator Power introduced Ledge Light Health District Supervisor of Finance and Administration Jennifer Muggeo. She provided a presentation that informed members of when, why and how the health district was created. She reviewed the duties and responsibilities of the health district, revenue sources and grants.

In response to members' questions, Ms. Muggeo explained the budget line item for marketing and noted that some of the cost is covered by grants. She clarified the issue of notice to withdraw from the health district that was received from the Towns of East Lyme and Ledyard. She stated that the proposed FYE 2012 budget provides a decrease in Groton's annual member contribution. She assured members that the projected budget for FYE 2012 will not increase if one or both of these towns withdraws. She explained that the budget includes staff reductions and was drafted to demonstrate that the district is being fiscally responsible in the current economic climate.

G. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

School Superintendent Paul Kadri announced that a decision regarding snow make-up days will be announced by Friday, February 11, 2011. He noted that four snow days were included in the school calendar but six days have been used so far.

Mr. Kadri announced a special regional conference hosted by the Groton Board of Education on March 25 and 26, 2011 that will increase knowledge of the Promethean white board Technology for the community and teachers.

He explained the implementation of a new food system that will inform parents of what their children are purchasing with their school lunch account.

H. LIAISON REPORTS

None.

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS**1. FINANCE - Chairman Hedrick**

No meeting, no report.

2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES - Chairman Pratt

No meeting, no report.

3. EDUCATION - Chairman Swindell

No meeting, no report.

4. RECREATION - Chairman Warn

No meeting, no report.

5. PUBLIC SAFETY - Chairman Parfitt

No meeting, no report.

6. PUBLIC WORKS - Chairman Collins

No meeting, no report.

7. RULES & PROCEDURES - Chairman Scott

No meeting, no report.

J. OTHER BUSINESS

Rep. Kotowski stated her concern about the BOE Administrative raises and asked if there was a Town Council referral regarding the BOE Administration raises based on a letter mentioned under Communications at the Town Council meeting held February 8, 2011.

In response to Rep. Kotowski, the Moderator explained that the RTM reviews and approves the Board of Education budget as one figure. He noted that the RTM can identify and suggest reductions in specific accounts or line items but the Board of Education is the body which decides where reductions are made in the BOE budget.

The Town Manager clarified that the Town Council did not create a new referral concerning the Board of Education Administrative raises. He explained that the letter expressed concern and cited the BOE Administrative raises from the FYE 2011 budget.

2010-0181 FYE2012 Budget Discussion

FYE2012 BUDGET DISCUSSION

No discussion.

K. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:33 p.m. was made by the Moderator, seconded by Rep. Parfitt and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the RTM*

Sally A. Whitney, Assistant Town Clerk